improve the programming and popularisation of the channels. Annual Awards for best programme producers have also been introduced to promote excellence in production and meet the challenges from competition.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Demands of Cable TV Operators

2001. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cable T.V. Operators United Front/Associations are planning to go on strike from 24 July, 2002, as reported in the 'Hindustan Times', dated 19th July, 2002;

(b) if so, the main demands/grouse of the operators; and

(c) the remedial measures Government propose to take to meet the situation while ensuring that the middle class people who are over-burdened financially are not asked to pay more by introducing the proposed CAS (Conditional Access System) being demanded by operators?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Cable Operators United Front had made an appeal for the passage of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2002, to enable introduction of Conditional Access System in cable television networks.

(c) Government has introduced the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2002 with a view to mandating an addressable system for pay channel viewing, through cable networks. The system when mandated, will allow the consumer to choose and pay for the channel(s) he wishes to watch. The Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on 15.5.2002.

Dues against different agencies and producers

2002. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge amount of more than Rs. 33445 lakhs is outstanding from different agencies by Doordarshan during the period 1997-1998 to 2000-2001; and